Your friend and Servant,

R. G.

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27

Divers Remarkable

PASSAGES

CONCERNING

The Originall and Progresse of the present great Action in

ESSEX:

AND

The reason of seizing on the Lord *CAPEL'S* Sonne.

Expressed in a Letter to a retired Gentleman, from his friend in LONDON.

July 20th

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PASSAGES

BRITISH MUSEUM

Diverſe remarkable Paſſages concerning the Originall, and Progreſſe of the preſent great Action *in* Eſſex, *and the reaſon of Seazing on the Lord* Capells *Son.*

Sir,

YOur great retiredneſſe I ſee, is accompanyed with many ſad thoughts, for the preſent condition of your native Country; & though you are not a man of *Action* in theſe unhappy troubles, yet I perceive you are a perſon of great *Devotion* and *Prayer*, for the removall of them: You deſire to know of me, the Originall of the preſent diſtraction in *Eſſex*, becauſe I live here in the City, whither all the News comes; and have ſome good acquaintance in that County: You deſire alſo, to underſtand the truth of that Act (which your ſelfe and Lady apprehends ſo barbarons) in ſeizing on the Lord *Capells* ſon, the manner and reaſon of it, and how people in the City doe cenſure the ſame. Sir, I know the Honour is great, and the Affection ſtrong, which both you, and your Lady bear to that Noble Lord, (unto whoſe Family you have a neere relation.) I alſo have much reverence in my heart towards him, for that great Loyalty & Faithfulneſſe in him to his King and Country; which I think all men muſt confeſſe to be fully manifeſt by his magnanimous deportment in his preſent ingagement, though there had been no former proofes of it: Wherefore I ſhall, in this particular which concerneth him and his ſon, as alſo in the other, ſatisfie your deſires as well as I am able, (though I doubt not but ſome others might have done it better) by

giving you that historicall relation of the whole buſineſſe, which from the teſtimony of ſeverall men I have induſtriouſly learned, and believe to be the truth. And 'tis this.

The County of *Eſſex* having, in an humble way Petitioned the two Houſes for a Treaty with the King; a disbanding the Army, and a removeall of their greivances; and received back a ſlight and unſatisfying Anſwer, as they apprehended: reſolved to renew their requeſts in the ſame ſubmiſſive manner and way as before: but obſerving by that barbarous entertainment which their neighbours of *Surrey* met withall; that thoſe, whom they were to make their addreſſes unto at *Weſtminſter*, were worſe ſpirited, and more cruelly diſpoſed then ever *Pharaoh*, the Tyrant of *Ægypt* was, who did not ſet his men of War to *Kill, Slay, and Deſtroy* the Afflicted *Iraelites*, when they put up their prayers to be eaſed of their Burdens: And perceiving withall, (by a *croſſe Petition* then in hand, (and with diligence promoted by the Sectaries of the County) that there was a ſtorme a riſing againſt themſelves, for giving example to thoſe of *Surry* and others, in ſupplicating for ſuch things as they have done: they thought it neceſſary and meet to conſult ſpeedily about their own defence; and to this purpoſe, convened at *Chelmesford*; where they found one Sir *William Maſſam*, a man whom (in their good opinion) they had Honoured to be Knight of their Shire; together with 4 more Parliament men, and diverſe *Committee-men* in conſultation to raiſe diviſions in the County, & oppoſitions againſt thoſe who were for the peace and ſafety thereof: with whom they did expoſtulate about the ſaid turbulent and croſſe Petition, which (they ſaid) was countenanced and promoted by them: ſhewing them diverſe warrants ſubſcribed by ſome of their hands, for the ſpeedy diſpeſſion of it: but they in their confuſion of ſpirit (notwithſtanding the evidence) were pleaſed to deny the ſame; whereat the people were very much moved againſt them (the untruth being ſo clearly manifeſt to the face of the whole County.) And they were exaſperated further, by that which they heard then, and there atteſted by one Major *Wilmore*, an honeſt and reſolute Gentleman of the County, viz. that himſelf, and diverſe other ſufficient witneſſes had lately heard a Parliament man proteſt, and ſay, *That if there were an* 100. *Barrells of Powder under the Parliament Houſe, and a traine layed, and a match ready to give fire, he would rather be blowne up, then yeild to a Treaty with the King*: And this was uttered by him, as if it were the ſenſe of all the then preſent

ſent prevailing party in the Houſes: whereby the Country apprehended, that the ſaid faction were reſolved directly upon the Kings ruine, in that they would rather chooſe a ſudden deſtruction, then come to the light, whereby their deeds might be made manifeſt, which (as appeared by this their ſhineſſe) would (in their own thoughts) be but an uſher to a more ſhamefull down-fall, if His Majeſties innocency and righteouſneſſe ſo highly wronged and abuſed ſhould come to be but cleerly viewed by His People.

And then further yet, ſome of the Country had underſtood; How another Parliament man alſo, had diſcovered the ſenſe and purpoſe of the Houſe, to be *in no hand to comply with the King*, though it was believed, and confeſſed, that in regard of His Majeſties diſpoſition and condition, He both could, and would pardon them: *For ſhould there be ſuch a Compliance, and His Majeſty ſuffered to ſpeak, and ſo buſineſſe be diſcuſſed before the People, the Kingdome* (ſaid He) *would never ſuffer the Militia to continue any longer in our hands, and we being bereft of power to cauſe awe, and dread, ſhould be torne in peices,* (ſcil. for what they had done) *or at leaſt ſhould live in ſuch contempt and ſcorne, that death would be better unto us, then ſuch a life:* And therefore, though he confeſſed it was believed alſo, (in regard of the great change in peoples hearts) that the King and His Party would get the better in the end; *yet* (ſayes he) *we are reſolved before that time come, to make the Land and Kingdome not worth His owning.*

Now this evill expreſſion alſo, having come to the ears of many *Eſſex* men there preſent, it ſpake to their hearts, that the intentions of thoſe who call themſelves the *Parliament*, was (in defence of their own Tyranny and juſtice) to hazard the totall ruine of their King and Country.

Theſe, and ſuch like conſiderations, did at that time much ſtirre the mindes of the people: And yet, by the adviſe of ſome of the chiefe and more diſcreet, amongſt them; they propounded to thoſe Members of Parliament there preſent, the dangers and perplexities which they were in; requeſting them to be meanes for them to the Parliament, that the Country might now at length be free from taxes, and quartring Souldiers; and put into a defenſive poſture, under officers of their owne choice, whom they may confide in; that ſo they might upon occaſion, be both able and ready to preſerve the ſame: (which was no more then theſe very Parliament men themſelves had moved them to petition for, ſix years agoe, when

there was no ſuch imminent or viſible danger as was now apparent.) This requeſt ſo modeſt and reaſonable, was thought would eaſily have been furthered by thoſe who were intruſted for the Countries good; but they, (notwithſtanding their duty and engagement) returned a ſlight Anſwer unto the people; who, when they heard the ſame read, cryed out with one voice, no Anſwer, no Anſwer; which notwithſtanding, (being written in a paper) was thrown down amongſt them in a careleſſe way, as all the Anſwer they muſt look for; and apprehended by the people to be ſo done in contempt and ſcorne of them all: whereupon they violently ruſhed up ſtaires, and incloſed the ſaid Parliament men, together with the Committee in their Chamber, and ſet a guard upon them.

Yet after this, all the Parl. men were releaſed (except *Maſſam*) and ſent (upon their promiſe of returne) with thoſe their deſires unto the Parliament: and diverſe of the Committee-men, as one M. *Luther*, and one M. *Young*, who were known to be men of a moderate temper, and not miſchievous, were freely let out, and permitted to goe to their owne homes. And had not the peeviſh and evill diſpoſition of unworthy Sir *William Maſſam* towards his Country, who had ſo highly honoured him, been ſo notorious to all; it is moſt probable that he alſo had been afforded like favour with the reſt. But when he was moved to joyne with the Country in the furtherance of their righteous and reaſonable deſires: He Anſwered, that *it was not juſt to move him, being a priſoner, unto any thing of that nature, or to require ought of him, till he were at liberty, for it was no other then a plaine inforcement upon his Conſcience*, while he was in that condition; complaining withall, *what a great miſery it was to be a priſoner and reſtrained of freedome.* Whereunto, Sir *William Martin*, a Committee man that was under the ſame reſtraint with him, Replyed, *You are ſenſible of this as a miſery, now tis your own caſe, only two dayes, but you have been no whit ſenſible of it, as tis the Kings caſe, whom you have kept in priſon well nigh two yeares.* And you think it an unjuſt enforcement upon *your Conſcience to be moved to joyne with your Country in a matter whereunto you are bound in duty: only becauſe you are under reſtraint: What injuſtice then have you ſhewn, in urging the King, as you have done, to yield His conſent to ſo many unreaſonable things againſt His Honour, Judgement, and Conſcience, throughout the whole time of His Impriſonment?* This reply comming to the knowledge and underſtanding of Sir *Charles Lucas*, he preſently with the liking of the

Country

Country, ſet the ſaid Sir *William Martin* at Liberty, becauſe (as he told him) he perceived by that his expreſſion, that he *had ſome true love in his heart unto the King:* Whereby is inferred, that the Kings Friends deſire to have none under reſtraint, but enemies to their King and Country, who are, and would be miſchievous to both, while they be at liberty.

But I proceed: The Parliament *Members*, who were ſent with the Counties deſires to the *Houſes*, upon their paroll, or promiſe of returne, (accounting it (as ſeemed) againſt the Honour and Priviledge of Parliament to keep their word) returned no more; but ſent down the promiſe of an Ordinance of Indempnity to the County, if they would (acknowledging themſelves in a fault) goe every man to his own home, and releaſe their Priſoners. Sir *Charles Lucas* (who had been called, and ſent for thither by the Gentlemen of the County) might alſo for his own perſon, be included in the ſame Ordinance: But for the Earl of *Norwich*, and thoſe men of *Kent* and *London* which came with him, muſt be all left to *Parliament mercy*. This Act or promiſe of Indempnity was accepted of by many, and the rather, becauſe of the misfortune of the *Kentiſh* forces, the noiſe whereof, came at that time in the higheſt tiune to this Countries eares, to its great diſadvantage.

But diverſe others of the Gentry and Yeomanry, who had better obſerved that little of faith and truth, which had ever yet been found in Parliament promiſes; made preſent choice of the Noble *Lucas* for their Generall; who was the rather induced to take the Charge upon him, for the love which he bore to his native County; & alſo in pitty and commiſeration to thoſe thouſands of Souls, which were otherwiſe to be left unto Parliament mercy; (from which, as from the extreameſt cruelty, *good Lord deliver us.*) Now this pious and worthy Act of Sir *Charles*, as it hath knit the hearts of all thoſe, and many others to him, in ſo ſtrong a tie of love, that nothing but death ſhall unlooſe: ſo no doubt but the Almighty God (by whoſe grace he did it) doth and will ſo favourably approve of the ſame, that (we hope) his divine bleſſing ſhall attend him in all his publick undertakings.

For we had experience once already of Gods aide and bleſſing in a like caſe, *viz.* when that truly valiant and religious Gentleman the now Lord *Hopton*, was with other perſons of great honour and quality, at the beginning of theſe troubles, to take Ship for *Wales*.

at

at *Minehead* in *Devon*, and wanting boates to transport all their company, were forced to leave some hundreds behinde on shore, who would be necessitated to fall into the hands of the Enemies: But this most worthy man looking back from the Ship, his bowels stirred towards them: whereupon he commands himself to be carryed back unto them; and tels them, Gentlemen, *it grieves me to leave you behinde us, who have thus far ventured your selves with us in this righteous Cause: I am therefore returned to partake of your fortune, and am resolved by Gods Grace, to adventure my life with you:* Which most noble and Christian Act God was so well pleased with, that he knit the Soudiers hearts most firmly to him, and made him successefull, even to admiration in the *West* of *England*: and it will be confessed of all, that no one Army since these Wars begun, was more beloved of the Country, where they came, more prosperous for the King, and more serviceable to His Cause, then that was, while the said Lord *Hopton*, and those gallant *Cornish* Gentry His Assistants did Command the same. Now we cannot build our faith in God, concerning our present case, (which is of a like nature to that) upon a better foundation then such former experience: God that aided the renowned and compassionate *Hopton*; will also prosper the Noble and mercifull *Lucas*.

But to returne to our matter, about this time the crafty Enemy considering the Christian constancy, and unshakable Loyalty of that true Lover of His King and Country, the Lord *Capell*. And knowing that his place of Residence, was not far distant from *Essex*: apprehending by that experience they had of him, that his stout and gallant spirit disdain'd to stoop to Compound with Rebels for the Estate, which God, his Aunccstors, and the Laws of the Land had given, and settled upon him; and conceiving by his carriage towards them, that he was careleſse to enjoy his owne Land, so long as the King was without His Crown; concluded to send speedily for him, and to clap him up close prisoner, and so prevent that comfort and encouragement, which his being at Liberty might afford to the Kings Friends in *Essex*. But his Lordship having private notice of these purposes against him, though the *Essex* businesse was yet exceeding raw in his apprehension, and (as himself confessed to a friend of his) not ripe enough for him to engage his person in: yet considering the useleſse condition he was sure to be shortly in, by being a Prisoner, conceiving that the notice he had thereof before hand

might be from a ſpeciall providence to thruſt him forth unto the preſent ſervice; and finding his Affections moſt ſtrong and ſincere for his Kings enlargement, and his Countries freedome: He reſolved to adventure himſelf, (though againſt his judgement, in regard of the immaturity of the enterprize) and to *truſt God wholly with the ſucceſſe*; it was his own expreſſion to his friend in private, who told it me; which, when I heard, I thought preſently of that ſpeech of *David*, when he went out to fight the *Lords Battaile againſt the uncircumciſed Philiſtims*, *I goe forth* (ſaith he) *in the name or ſtrength only of the Lord of Hoſts.*

Upon theſe grounds, this Nobleman removed himſelf to *Chelmisford*, leaving his pious and dear Lady great with child, and his particular Affaires (of great concernment then in Agitation) to Gods ſole protection and diſpoſall, not ſo much as ordering (though ſome ſuggeſted the motion) that his eldeſt ſon ſhould be conveyed to ſome private concealment; for himſelf being full of candour, nobleneſſe and humanity, could not (ſurely) conceive it poſſible, that any who wore the ſhapes of men, and were named Chriſtians, or called Gentlemen, would offer, or ſuffer to be offered, any thing unworthy to ſuch a Lady as his was, and in her condition; or to any of his innocent and harmleſſe Children: nay, he might rather think, that that for the Name ſake, and honour of Parliament, they who were now ſo called, would (as they were bound) protect them from wrongs and incivilities.

After his Lordſhips arrivall at *Chelmisford*, (which was to the great rejoycing of all thoſe Loyal hearts) the forces there removed within 2 dayes (by reaſon haply of the Enemies ſuddain & ſpeedy approach) to *Braintry*, and from thence next day, towards *Colcheſter*, (carrying Sir *William Maſſam*, and the reſt of the Committee with them, uſing them with all civility and gentleneſſe;) and they march'd with their Army through the Country in that orderly and unblameable way and manner, as was to all mens admiration; only at *Earls Colne*, ſome of the fooliſh townſmen by the excitation of one *Joſſeline* (a factious Prieſt) ſtood with their Guns and Muſquets to oppoſe them, which was a ſufficient provocation unto them to plunder the Town, had they had any ſuch diſpoſition; they urged no mans perſon to joyne with them, but accepted only of thoſe that offered their voluntary ſervice. Indeed their fairneſſe and civill behaviour did the more eminently appear, by the outragious and contrary demeanour of Gene-

rall *Fairfax's* men, who inmediately followed them, and in a ſort purſued them, forcing the Country againſt their wills to joyne with them; and fetching their proviſion daily from them without paying any thing for the ſame; and plundring thoſe, who by evill neighbours were noted to them, to be of a different judgement and opinion.

The *Eſſex* forces had not been in *Cholcheſter* 24 houres, before the enemy made a moſt feirce and furious aſſault upon them with ſword and fire; confidently preſuming, in regard of his former ſucceſſes and preſent ſtrength, and the apprehended weakneſſe of the Town, and ſuddaine feares or diſaffections of the inhabitants that he ſhould that night make an end of the buſineſſe.

But *on the mount the Lord was ſeen*; who appeared wonderfully in the behalf of his aſſaulted people, for he rebuked the enemy very ſharply; and gave them by this deſpiſed handfull, the greateſt check that ſince the beginning of the Wars they had received: I take no pleaſure to ſay how many hundreds of them were there ſlaine, and how many moſt miſerably wounded; I am an *Engliſhman*, and my heart bleeds to heare or ſpeak of the numbers of my ſlaughtered Country-men: indeed the Enemy hath taken moſt ſpeciall and cunning courſes to conceal his loſſes from the peoples knowledge; But I ſhall leave the diſcovery thereof to other pens, onely this I muſt obſerve, (as many others doe beſide my ſelf;) Generall *Fairfax* and his Army went into *Eſſex* with the higheſt ſcorne and contempt of thoſe, whom they were to oppoſe, and with the greateſt purpoſes of cruelty againſt them, as could be imagined, threatning to ſwallow them up at a bit, and (as they ſaid) *to cut the Calves throats preſently*: And it muſt be confeſſed to Gods ſole glory, that it was beyond the expectation or faith of man, that the Royall party in the Town ſhould have been able (all things conſidered) to have done the tenth part of thoſe things which they have done ſince they went thither: but God, who is never failing unto men in diſtreſſe, when they be in righteous wayes, and doe repoſe their truſt in him, hath wrought all their works for them even to admiration, (as hereafter I hope (when we have the full relation) ſhall be declared to the Almighties praiſe) and in the mean time let all that wiſh happineſſe to their King and Country, adore the Lord for his goodneſſe already manifeſted, and fervently ſupplicate his divine Majeſty for his further protection and aſſiſtance, to thoſe loyall and good men, who in defence of their

Religion

Religion, Laws and Country, are now in Arms in that town of *Cholcheſter*. I now proceed to your other particular.

Sir *William Maſſam* the Parliament man, finding it now more pleaſant to ſend others to the Wars, then to be there himſelf; though but as a ſpectator or looker on, and fearing (as ſeemed) in regard of his black and guilty ſoul, that every ſhot which his friends without let flie againſt the Town, would beat down ſome houſe about his head; wanting alſo that ſtate and ſervice, that variety of wine, and plenty of dainties in this beſieged place which he was wont to abound in at *Weſtminſter*, and ſo thinking himſelfe in a leſſe glorious condition here then there, and that he had not altogether ſo much reſpect and crowching unto, (though he wants for no neceſſaries which the Town can afford;) thought it his wiſdome to cry before he was hurt, and as ſome creatures (we know) will make a greater noiſe, if they fear but touching, then ſheep will doe, when ſhorne or ſlaughtred; ſo did he whine and keep adoe, ſending forth pitifull complaints, by privy meſſages to his Brethren at *Weſtminſter*, and their Maſter the *Generall*; to the end (as appeared by the event) that ſome of the Wives, Chidren, or friends of thoſe who had him in Bondage, might be ſeized on as priſoners, to be given in exchange for him: This motion or intimation was preſently reliſhed by the prevailing Faction in the Houſe of Commons, who had (as it ſeemes) reſolved now to put off Humanity as well as Loyalty; and to leave off to be Gentlemen as well as Chriſtians: And therefore they ſet themſelves preſently about the Buſineſſe: amongſt whom, it was propounded and urged in a very earneſt manner, (as I heard) by one *Gurdon* of *Suffolke*, and *Henry Mildmay* of *Eſſex*, (an unworthy Kinſman of the Lord *Capell*) that the Lady of the ſaid Lord (being great with child) ſhould be ſent to the Head-quarters, and there be dealt withall as ſhould ſeeme good to their Generall; but this motion was not allowed of by the Houſe, becauſe it would ſpeak them to be in too too deſperate a condition, in that ſort, to take advantage of ſhewing Cruelty to the perſon of a great-bellied Woman: But it was concluded againſt her eldeſt Son, a Gentleman of ſome 16 years of Age to ſend him. Now ſome ſay, that the Generall himſelf ſent for him, by a firſt and ſecond Meſſage, being (as they ſay) very angry with God for giving ſuch a check to his boyſterous proceedings, and then the loſſe of his Treaſure (ſome 80000l. as is reported)

at *Pomfret* Caſtle came to his ears about that time, which did not a little heighten his diſcontent and fury, and therefore he longed to be in Action, and to have ſuch in his power, whom he thought he could maſter: thus ſome doe cenſure, though others indeed do affirme for him, that he is more a Souldier, then to make ſo unmanly a requeſt, or indeed to approve of ſo barbarous an Act; (and they ſay too, that when he ſaw the young Gentleman, he was offended (or ſeemed at leaſt ſo to be) at thoſe that ſent him.) But however, this noble youth was by Order of Parliament ſeized upon, and rent from the preſence of his tender Mother, which ſudden & unexpected inhumanity cauſed her (as is ſaid) to fall into preſent travaile of Child-birth, to the great hazard of her life; though the mercifull God, by his mighty power (through the ſtrength of faith) hath yet upheld her Spirit, and preſerv'd her in being.

Her Ladiſhip hereupon (as their own books tell us) ſent a Petition to the Houſe of Lords in the behalf of her Son, *who is* (ſay they) *apprehended, and ſent down to the Generall, to be uſed in the ſame condition, as the Committee of* Eſſex *are with the Enemy; and deſiring ſhe may have ſuch ſatisfaction herein, as may be for the Juſtice and Honour of Parliament.* For ſo (indeed) they call themſelves, and for the Honour of that they pretend to ſtand: The Lords recommended the ſaid Petition to the Commons: (for to doe them right, they had (I heard) ſo much Honour left, as to abhor the fact even from the beginning.) Now the Commons either being ignorant what this *Honour and Juſtice of Parliament* was, or elſe not daring to interpret what it ought to be, *Ordered hereupon* (ſaies their perfect Diurnall) *that a Letter ſhould be written from the Houſe to the Lord Generall* Fairfax, *with the Petition of the ſaid Lady* Capell *therein, and that his Lordſhip be deſired to doe therein, as may be for the Juſtice and Honour of Parliament*, leaving it to him (being a Sword-man) to determine what that is now grown to be.

He receiving the ſame, ſent his Letter into *Colcheſter*, ſignifying (ſayes their Book) that *the Parliament being ſenſible of their ſeizing on Sir* William Maſſam, *and others of the Committee, (not being Priſoners of Warre) had ſent downe the Lord* Capel's *ſonne, with others, that he might be ſent in exchange for Sir* William Maſſam.

In which Tender is apprehended to be as little of Juſtice, as valour, and as little of Piety and Honeſty, as of either the other two: For people argue thus.

Sir

Sir *William Maſſam* (they ſay) is a Malefactor, a miſchievous perſon, old in wickedneſſe: and though no Priſoner of War, yet a prime Author of it, yea the principall man that raiſed or cauſed the preſent War in the County of *Eſſex*: Whereas Maſter *Capell* is a young Gentleman, of a pure and candid ſpirit, of a ſweet and gracious diſpoſition, who knowes no evill, nor ever did, or intended hurt to the County of *Eſſex*, or to any creature.

Againe, Sir *William Maſſam* (they ſay) was apprehended for his faults, by thoſe whoſe Servant he was, and to whom he was to give an account for his ill diſcharge of the truſt repoſed in him: having lately before, renounced the ſame, diſclaiming to performe his duty any longer, by publiſhing to the world (with the reſt of his fellowes) that *they would treat no more with the King*, (to which they were choſen, and appointed by their Counties.) Yea, and he was ſeized upon too (as tis obſerved) while he was in the very act of ſin, plotting to raiſe ſtrife in his Country, having for ſeven yeeres together, endeavoured to impoveriſh its wealth, and to worke its ruine. Yea and a few dayes before, he had on the publique Bench uſed threatning expreſſions to thoſe of the ſame, who promoted a Petition for the Kings ſafety and honour, and for the Kingdomes peace, and had urged the Parliament to ſend downe Souldiers to inſlave the ſame: Now no ſuch things could be laid to the charge of young Mr. *Capell*, that he ſhould be judged meet to be put into the ſcale with ſuch a perſon. His onely faults are his Parents vertues, and his owne innocence, and for theſe he was taken Priſoner in his Fathers houſe, where he was at his Study, by thoſe who had no Authority over him, to whom he had no relation at all; nor had ever done them the leaſt evill.

Beſides, Sir *Will: Maſſam* (as they who know him ſay) is, as of no ſuch worth, ſo of no ſuch great birth, or fortunes, as to be weighed in the Ballance with this Spark of Honour, who is Heire to a great Eſtate, of a noble and unſpotted Family: and therefore that this little Gentleman ſhould be thus valued or offered in exchange, for that other thing who is ſo little of a Gentleman, is generally conceived to be very unjuſt, ridiculous, and unworthy.

Yea and farther yet, the world obſerves and ſayes, that if there was any error committed in the ſeizing upon Sir *William Maſſam*, and his fellows, it was committed by the Inhabitants and people of *Eſſex* ſix dayes before the Lord *Capels* comming amongſt them, without his knowledge, or privity: nor was he the Generall of *Eſſex* men afterward,

ward, onely he came to them as a friend to lend them his assistance, as they appeared for the liberty of the King and the Law: and therefore that his Child should be imprisoned, his Lady affrighted, and threatned, or himselfe any way damnified for that act of *Essex* men, is a thing so ignominious and highly base, that all people (but the Actors) cry open shame upon it.

And indeed how did *William of Nassaw* Prince of *Orange* in his Apologie, inveigh against the King of *Spaine*, taxing him of Barbarousnesse, Inhumanity, and Ignoblenesse, for seizing upon his Son, a Youth, and at Schoole, when he could not reach himselfe? And how did the whole Christian world then, concur with that Prince, in condemning the said King, for that unkingly and unsoldierly act: for though the Father had revolted from his due obedience, yet to punish him in his child, to take revenge upon one that was innocent, shewed rather passionate fury then discretion; and cowardly baseneſse, then any thing else. But indeed, this act of Generall *Fairfax* and his Parliament, though the same in kind, with that of the *Spanish* King, yet in regard of the circumstances is many degrees more injust and vile: For the Father of this noble Youth had not revolted from any obedience to them, for he never acknowledged any due unto them since they revolted from their Soveraigne; but becauſe they cannot yet be revenged on him, for his piety and faithfulneſse to his King and Country; therefore they will wreak their spleen upon his Wife and Children; and becauſe they cannot get guilty persons to exchange for Traitors, they will offer innocents, and threaten to expoſe such to slaughter.

But doubtleſſe, Generall *Fairfax* fancied as much pusilanimity in the Father of this young Gentleman (when he sent his fore-named letter into *Colcheſter*) as would (perhaps) have appeared in his own poor spirited selfe, in a case of like nature; and that he was as unable to distinguish Gold from Drosse as he; but he was quickly resolved on the contrary: for that Heroick Lord returnes his answer (as their own book saies) that very evening in theſe words. 1. *That he conceived it inhumane,* (viz. in the Enemies to doe as they had done.) 2. *That if all the Committee had been offered for his son,* (viz. by those of his own party) *he would have disdained the motion.* 3. *That he joyed to see any of this, if no other way, yet by their sufferings to pay the duty they owe to their King, and the known Lawes.*

Sir, I know you cannot forbear (at the reading of this) to cry out

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as many others have done: O truly noble and Christian spirit! O magnanimous expression of perfect Loyalty, worthy indeed to be written in golden Letters, and transmitted to posterity for an everlasting patterne of instruction, and speciall meanes of inspiration! And I think you will hope (as I doe) that since God doth give us such speciall gages of his love and mercy, (as men of such high courage and honour are) we may with comfort and confidence conclude, that he hath not yet left off to intend good to this poor Kingdome.

Indeed 'tis fancyed by a great many, that the Heroick Answer of this Nobleman, together with the consideration of the unworthynesse of the Act so generally resented and cryed out upon, will work so upon the spirits of the Agents, that for pure shame at least, they will send back the young Gentleman, and endeavour, by some speciall respect to that Famliy, to lessen the deformity of this so opprobrious inhumanity; though these be some, I confesse (who know them well) that are of a contrary opinion: but let me assure you 'tis the judgment of wise men, that the Generall and House of Commons could not have done a more imprudent Act to their own disadvantage then this was, and is like to be, so evilly 'tis apprehended by all sorts of people.

And thus (noble Sir) I have given what satisfaction I am able to your self and Lady, in the particulars you write about. What the issue of *Colchester* busines will yet be, is not evident, many reports we have, that the Enemy which lies before it, hath lost many hundreds if not some thousands of men, surely aboundance most lamentably wounded, are daily sent to *London* from him: Tis much observed how God hath opposed and resisted the Pride of the Army, for if words doe manifest thoughts, and threats intentions; never any undertook a businesse with more presumption of heart, and cruelty of spirit then they did this of *Essex*: But how hath the Heavens and Stars in their courses seemed to fight against them, since they besieged that despised place; for indeed, though this judgement of Raine hath been upon us all, and threatens a generall calamity to ensue, (which indeed we have all deserved) yet it cannot be denyed, but they have been most specially detrimented in their designe, by those bottles of Heaven, which God hath powered out upon them in their Trenches, whereby their Souldiers are much impaired in their healths, besides those wounds which they receive daily from the defendants, whom they thought they had taken in a trap: God is stronger

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then the *Militia*, nor doth he care for the Anger of man; he hath abated the ſtrength of this great Generall, and his Forces; to recruite, which the unwilling Country are made to help forward their own deſtruction, and driven on (they ſay) as *Turkiſh* Slaves are, to be food for the Bullet: Proviſions are commanded from them beſide to be brought in *gratis*, ready dreſſed to the Army daily; one Town I heard, (within 12 miles of them) is at 36l. the week for Food for them; and ſo are all others proportionably charged to the ſame purpoſe. Yea, and from the Inhabitants of that County alſo money muſt be raiſed (according to Ordinance) to pay their Souldiers their wages, who by their Horſes, and other wayes, doe extreamely deſtroy the Corne and Fruites there, which fore-ſpeaks a moſt ſad and ſpeedy famine ſhortly: And more then this, 'tis Ordered by the Houſe of Commons, that 45001. more be raiſed in that County, for advancing two Troops and a company of Dragoones for the ſervice of it: for ſo it muſt be called, though it be evident enough, that 'tis, & will be for the ruine of it. Yea, and it muſt be beleevd too, that this, with all its preſent miſeries are for its good, and that the continuance of them, is for its preſervation.

And this (as moſt men obſerve) is that County which hath been ſo conſtantly faithfull to the Parliament from the very beginning, and ſo forward in affording aſſiſtance on all occaſions: now it is apparent what the reward and wages is, which it muſt be content with, in lieu of all its love, ſervice and monies: nor can it be charged to have offered any other way, then by groaning under its burdens, and ſighing forth its petitions, in an humble way for peace and quiet.

But in very deed, there was (as wiſe and good men apprehend) more of modeſty and fairneſſe in that courſe which this Country took to manifeſt their greivances, then there was of Juſtice and Courage; and tis believed that the miſeries now upon it, are permitted of God as a juſt puniſhment, for making thoſe their Addreſſes in ſo ſubmiſſive a way, as that was by Petition: After the Houſe of Commons had declared to the world, *that they would make no more Addreſſes to the King*. They ought rather, when they heard this, to have been an example, & led the way unto the whole Kingdome, in re-calling their Knights and Burgeſſes then in Petitioning to them; and have gone up rather with Swords in their hands, then Papers, to them, who had diſclaimed to Treat with the King (being honoured with the

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truſt of *Parliament men* only to that end & purpoſe) then in petitioning any more unto them. For indeed, after they had diſcovered themſelves ſo far, it was the duty of all men to have forborn; yea, and abhord to have given any further reſpects unto them: Which, becauſe they did not, therefore are they (as tis beleeved) by Gods permiſſion and providence thus afflicted and tormented.

And ſo the Maſſacre that was made upon *Surry* men, did (in reſpect of God) betide them juſtly, for following in the ſame way as theſe of *Eſſex* had done. And *Kent* in like manner, for but endeavouring & purpoſing to tread in thoſe ſteps, hath in ſome ſort ſmarted already, and are terribly threatned to be humbled further, even unto beggery and bondage, by theſe *Flagella Dei*, when their preſent imployments are a little over: And 'tis conceived that every other County which ſhall henceforth proceed in that path of Honouring thoſe *Sons of Beliall* (for ſo Scripture calleth ſuch men) by petitioning to them, who have thus diſclaimed to Treat with the Annoynted of God, ſhall be made to drink of that cup, (if they take not warning by others harmes) and to taſt deeply of Gods diſpleaſure. Nor muſt the City of *London* fancy that God will forget her, for her being ſtil a guard to theſe evil men, & for affording them the protection of her Trainbands after ſhe had hear'd proclaimed in her ſtreets, *no more Addreſſes to Gods Vice-gerent*: For 'tis concluded certainly, by the moſt knowing men, that the *Houſe of Commons*, by that act of theirs, (in diſclaiming Treaty with His Sacred Majeſty) have not only renounced being *Parliament men*, and (as much as in them lieth) diſſolved their own Aſſembly, *ipſo facto*, but alſo offered the higheſt contempt and ſcorne unto the Almighty God (whoſe Image and Miniſter the King is) that ever was yet offered by mortall creatures; never was ſuch a thing heard of in *Iſraell*, nor amongſt the *Heathens*; no ſtory can parallel the ſame, that of *Dathan* and *Abriam* (who ſaid *we will not come up*, when *Moſes* ſent for them) comes neereſt to it, but 'tis not half ſo black. Indeed Chriſtianity ſtands amazed at it, and Proteſtant Religion is aſhamed and confounded in her ſelf, that any who pretend to her, ſhould be juſtly taxable of ſuch a damnable impudence, which Satan himſelf upon ſo evident a proof can ſcarcely be challenged to be guilty of. Surely that God, who ſaid to *Samuell* (upon a far leſſe provocation) *they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me*, will never endure this at the hands of theſe men; nor will he be pleaſed with thoſe, who by any further application ſhall ſeeme

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ſtill to approve of them. He expects (undoubtedly) that all people ſhould ſeparate from their ſociety and neighbourhood, (as they of old upon his command, did from *the Tents of Corah* and his Companions.) For, neither ſhall theſe *die the common death of all men*, ſome *new thing* rather *will God make*, ſome remarkable Judgement will he create for this new and unheard of Sin: and 'tis believed, that he had ſo done ere this, had not his infinite mercies towards ſome of better conditions, (who through inconſideration of the immenſity of the ſin, and ſo of the danger of his high diſpleaſure for it, do yet abide with them, or neere unto them) prevented or ſuſpended the ſame: God ſaid once, *he could not doe any thing againſt* Sodome, *till* Lot *was removed thence*; but *Lot* was thereupon *to make haſt, and get quick away*; or elſe (after warning given, had he ſtayed) he might have been over-taken: ſo no doubt but God having ſome, even in the *Babell* at *Weſtminſter*, whom he loves, who have not concurred in thoſe impious Votes, (of no further Addreſſes to that Sacred Perſon, whom by holy Writ they are ſo expreſly bound to Honour) for their ſakes hath hitherto forborne to empty forth the viall of his juſt diſpleaſure; and the prayers of good people for them are, that they may not provoke God by too long a ſtay, leaſt they prove partakers in the end of the judgement: But 'tis firmly believed, that when theſe have withdrawne themſelves, and the City their guards; then, then ſhall the great wrath of the moſt Mighty God come downe upon thoſe *men of Beliall*, thoſe *Children of diſobedience*, and that in ſo viſible and terrible a manner, that all the world ſhall ſee, and ſay, *'tis the Lords owne doing, verily it is God that judgeth the Earth.* Sir, this is the judgement of many men who are not only diſcreet and wiſe, but alſo (I dare ſay) of Gods great acquaintance.

Sir, I hope my deſires to Anſwer yours, ſhall with your goodneſſe excuſe the tediouſneſſe of this diſcourſe. I preſume ſhortly we ſhall underſtand more of *Eſſex* Affaires, and I expect to hear much of God in the management of that buſineſſe in *Colcheſter*. 'Tis reported that *Suffolke* men have taken great paines in aſſiſting their Enemies to deſtroy their friends: God hath raiſed up deliverers for them, but they will none of them; they are willing (it ſeemes) to lie ſtill under their burdens of oppreſſion and wrong: but *this their way is their folly*; and this their folly hath coſt them many of their lives already; though indeed ('tis beleeved) that thoſe of *Suffolke* are, and have been only Sectaries, or ſuch as are brought in to aide Generall *Fair-*

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fax by the inſtigation & compulſion of *Committee-men*, *Sequeſtrators*, and *intruding Prieſts*: for theſe Wars on that ſide (in verydeed) are only to maintain their Kingdom and Authority: When the full relation of the whole matter ſhall arrive (if you have it not from a better hand) I ſhall impart it to you. What I have writ now, I conceive is the truth but I confeſſe 'tis from the mouths & judgements of other men; wherefore if time, or other information ſhall fortune to ſpeak any thing to be otherwiſe; be pleaſed (I pray) to pardon the unwilling and unwitting Errours of

Your obliged Friend, and

Humble Servant.

ERRATA.

Page 3. line 27. read *Injuſtice.* pag. 5. l. 17. r. *they muſt.* l. 20. r. *time.* p. 13. l. 15. r. *there:* p. 14. l. 25. r. *offended.*

FINIS.